

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES

REF: LAGOS 8026

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WILL BE USED ON IF ASKED BASIS AT
DEPARTMENT BRIEFINGS. TO DATE NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN
RAISED RE PAN AFRICAN ISSUE.

QUOTE: Q.WHAT IS PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES AND WHY DOES IT
HAVE A LARGE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO THE US GOVERNMENT
OPERATING OUT OF LAGOS, NIGERIA?

A. PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES (NIGERIA) LTD. IS A PRIVATELY
OWNED NIGERIAN AIRLINE COMPANY ORGANIZED UNDER AND OPERATING
ACCORDING TO THE PERTINENT LAWS OF NIGERIA. AT LEAST FORTY
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PERCENT OF ITS STOCK IS HELD BY NIGERIAN CITIZENS. ITS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDES CITIZENS OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE US AND NIGERIA. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT A MIAMI BASED COMPANY, AFRICAIR, IS ONE OF SEVERAL STOCK-HOLDERS IN THE ORGANIZATION. AS FAR AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THAT IS ITS ONLY AMERICAN BASED OWNERSHIP.

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LAGOS, THROUGH ITS WEST AFRICAN CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTER (WACASC) HAS FOR APPROXIMATELY 12 YEARS CONTRACTED FOR CHARTER SERVICES FROM PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES. WACASC IS A REGIONAL SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS CENTER WHICH HANDLES THE IMPORTATION, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD, FURNISHINGS, OFFICE SUPPLIES, AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS FOR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES STATIONED AT US DIPLOMATIC INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. WACASC IS STAFFED BY US FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL AND IS LOCATED IN LAGOS, NIGERIA.

THE US GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES IS STRICTLY AS A CONTRACTOR OF AIR CARGO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. PAYMENTS TO THE COMPANY TOTAL APPROXIMATELY \$65,000 TO \$80,000 PER MONTH, DEPENDING UPON MILES FLOWN AND CARGO DELIVERED TO SERVICED DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS VIA A DC-6 AIRCRAFT WHICH IS OWNED BY PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES. THIS SAME AIRCRAFT IS ALSO USED BY PAN AFRICAN TO SERVICE OTHER CLIENTS, INCLUDING PRIVATE FIRMS AND AGENCIES OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. IS THE CIA INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH PAN AFRICAN AIRLINES OR THE HOLDING COMPANY AFRICAIR?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN A VAST NUMBER OF CHARGES ABOUT US INVOLVEMENT IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES ABROAD. AS YOU KNOW, IT IS OUR PRACTICE NOT TO COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS SUCH AS THESE. IN THE CURRENT CASE, I CAN ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THIS AIRLINE AND HOLDING COMPANY PREVIOUSLY GIVEN IS TOTALLY ACCURATE. UNQUOTE

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